

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANGKO 19612 100455Z

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ACTION EA-09

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SUBJ: FOREIGN MINISTRER INTERVIEW WITH FAR EASTERN ECONOMIC
REVIEW

REF : BANGKOK 19373

1. INTERVIEW OF FOREIGN MINISTER PHICHAIRATTAKUN BY
BANGKOK CORRESPONDENT OF FAR EASTERN ECONOMIC REVIEW
ON JULY 5 RELEASED FOR PUBLICATION TODAY BY MINISTRY
OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS. BULK OF INTERVIEW COVERED
SAME GROUND AS HIS SPEECH TO FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT'S
CLUB OF THAILAND ON JULY 2.

2. BELOW IS EXCERPT FROM INTERVIEW CONCERNED WITH
PERMISSION OF US PLANES TO STOP-OVER AND REFUEL.
QUOTE Q. WHAT IS YOUR GOVERNMENT'S POLICY ON THE MILITARY
BUILD-UP IN THE INDIAN OCEAN AND SPECIFICALLY, WILL YOU
CONTINUE TO PERMIT US PLANES BOUND FOR DIEGO GARCIA TO
STOP-OVER AND RE-FUEL HERE?

A. AS I HAVE SAID EARLIER THAT THAILAND DOES NOT WISH TO
BECOME AN ARENA FOR GREAT POWER RIVALRY. WE MAINTAIN THAT
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PAGE 02 BANGKO 19612 100455Z

THE PRINCIPLE OF NON-INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS MUST

BE STRICTLY OBSERVED AND THE ROYAL THAI GOVERNMENT WILL
PROTECT THAILAND'S SOVEREIGNTY AND INTEGRITY. RELATIONS
WITH THE SOVIET UNION ARE CORDIAL. AS FOR PLAYING
ONE OFF AGAINST THE OTHER, NOT BEING INVOLVED IN GREAT
POWER RIVALRY ALSO MEANS THAT WE DO NOT SEEK TO
EXPLOIT. WE WILL PERMIT U.S. PLANES BOUND FOR DIEGO GARCIA
TO STOPOVER FOR REFUELING ON HUMANITARIAN REASON ONLY.
BUT A REQUEST MUST BE SUBMITTED THROUGH OUR DEFENSE
DEPARTMENT BEFORE HAND. END OF QUOTE.
WHITEHOUSE

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